A.—(*a*) Full information will be found in the annual administration reports of the department which are placed on the Editors' Table. It is not possible to allocate the staff to the various branches of work with any accuracy.

(*b*) During 1926-27 there will be nine officers employed on working plans, nine employed under the Chief Forest Engineer and the rest employed on regeneration and conservancy which will include among other duties, the construction of buildings and roads as well as the demarcation of fuel coupes, the extraction of timber and fuel, maintenance of boundaries, the collection of revenue and protection. It is not however possible to give within a reasonable compass the exact details of the work to be done.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" With reference to the answer given in clause (*a*) that full information will be found in the annual administration reports of the department which are placed on the Editors' table, I may say I have read all these administration reports. This department is a puzzle to me. I think it was one of the Secretaries of the Forest Department that said on a previous occasion that this regeneration work and that of working plans were done very badly or perfunctorily. I want to know what this department is. It is a puzzle to the public. That is the reason I have asked this question again. We cannot find anything in the administration report. Can I get a more definite information ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" There is no puzzle about it. If the hon. Member reads the administration report, he will have a clear idea."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I say I read it and I did not get a clear idea."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I am very sorry."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" During the budget debate, the Government admitted all this and gave their reasons for appointing a number of officers and treating their pay as non-votable or untouchable. They said that everything was done badly or perfunctorily in the past and a new staff had been created at an enormous cost of Rs. 50,000, or so."

Mr. V. PANDRANG ROW :—" I remember saying that it was not quite satisfactory."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" If it is a puzzle to the hon. Member for South Kanara, I am sorry I cannot help it."

Jails.

Prisoners suffering from chronic complaints in the Alipore Jail.

*2403 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number of prisoners in the Alipore Jail, Bellary, suffering from chronic complaints of one kind or another and the reasons, if any, for their non-discharge from the prison ?

A.—It is reported that 105 prisoners come under the classes referred to in rules 513—515-B of the Jail Manual. Thirty-six of these are under observation. The release of the remaining 69 prisoners was considered undesirable on grounds of public safety.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" As many as 105 prisoners are suffering from some kind of chronic disease or other. Obviously their detention must appear rather unnecessary. It is said that 36 of these are under observation, and that the release of the remaining 69 prisoners was considered undesirable on the grounds of public safety. I want to know whether they were required to furnish security for good behaviour but they declined to do so, or whether the hon. Member is unable to find people who will undertake to stand security for their good conduct ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" They are all prisoners who have been convicted by courts "

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I am quite aware of it. In view of the fact that they are suffering from chronic diseases and in view of the existing provision that such people might be released on suitable guarantees, I want to know whether such guarantees are not forthcoming."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" So many people outside the jails are suffering from chronic diseases. That is not a sufficient ground for releasing the prisoners."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know the reason why the 36 prisoners are under observation. They are also convicts ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I suppose so."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Perhaps their case is a very bad case."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" That is what I want to know. He has not answered my question. Why is it that a distinction is made between those 36 prisoners and others ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Perhaps their diseases might have been more acute than those of others."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I suggest that the hon. the Home Member may be so good as to satisfy himself on all these points. If he does so, I think he will be able to do something in the matter."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I do not think I can do anything in the matter."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" The answer given to the question does not make a distinction on the relative complaints or the diseases from which these prisoners have been suffering. But it says that on grounds of public safety, it was considered that the release of the remaining 69 prisoners was undesirable."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" After all, they are suffering from such chronic diseases, as diabetes, colic, etc."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Tuberculosis ? Some of them are suffering from tuberculosis."

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The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"We have special arrangements for the treatment of such cases."

Labour.

Staff of the District Labour offices in Guntur, etc.

*2404 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the candidates employed, the communities to which they belong, and the substantive appointments they hold in various capacities in the District Labour offices of Guntur, Nellore and Vellore;

(b) how many applications were received for various appointments in the Labour department, opened recently in the Nellore district as well as in Vellore, North Arcot district; and

(c) whether all appointments, including those of the District Labour Officers, Nellore and Vellore, were solely and finally made by the District Collectors of the respective districts?

A.—(a) & (b) Statements [a] A and B giving the information required are placed on the table.

(c) The appointments of District Labour Officers are made by Collectors subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Labour, while the other appointments are made by Collectors themselves.

Unemployment.

Report of Committee on Unemployment.

*2405 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the committee appointed to enquire into the question of unemployment among the educated middle classes of Madras Presidency;

(b) if not, whether they are aware of any reasons for the delay in the submission of the report; and

(c) if received, whether copies of the report will be placed on the table of the House at the August meeting?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 2339.

(c) Does not arise.

Economic conditions (including prices and wages).

Control over the price of rice, ragi, etc.

*2406 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) why there is no control over rice, ragi, cholam, cumboo, chamai and other Indian grains now;

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 369-370 infra.